

QUINNVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

IN THE TOWN OF LINCOLN
861 LOWER RIVER RD
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND 02865

Warden's Meeting Minutes: March 10, 2015

Members present:

Moderator; Russell Hervieux
Warden Mike Williams
Warden; James Larivee
Tax Collector, Jerianne Nunes
Treasurer; Claire Girard
Secretary; Tom Hagen
Chief; Stephen Nunes
Missing: Warden; David Garneau

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Moderator Russell Hervieux.

Secretary's report:

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the secretary's report. Motion passed

Treasurer's report:

Claire Girard presented copies of the 2014/2015 budget along with account balances for the past two months to the attendees. Highlights: Navigant checking \$18,164.82 Navigant truck savings account \$110,673.13, Capitol One truck savings account \$10,875.00. No outstanding bills were reported.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion passed

Tax Collector's Report:

Jerianne Nunes reports \$79,759.51 in payments have been received including back taxes owed from previous years. According to the records, \$26,141.47 remains outstanding.

For the tax year 2014 approximately \$10,000 in real estate fire taxes, \$4,000 in motor vehicle fire taxes and \$2,000 in late fees remain unpaid. Second notices have gone out.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion passed

Old Business:

Building North Side Stairs

No new discussion on this topic other than the project due to start when weather allows.

Hall Rental

The tenant using the hall for dance and exercise classes is up to date with monthly rent payments of \$700. Claire Girard reports rent payments received from tenant on time. No other issues to reported.

Snow plowing

A town vehicle was seen plowing the main driveway during the last snow storm and warden Mike Williams reports using his own vehicle to plow the extra parking area contracted out this year. Hall renters and fire department call men have both resorted to shoveling walks and stairs during daytime hours to access the building, which was also covered in the snow removal agreement. These issues have raised concerns that the contractor is being paid for work not performed. Claire Girard has sent

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payment for \$500 so far and has received a bill for another \$105. Discussion ended with the agreement that another contractor be sought for next year, including a more thorough description of services to be performed.

Recruiting/ Staffing

Chief Nunes reports that the fire engine recently responded late to a gas emergency. Although first responders appeared at the station, none were qualified to drive the fire engine due to their age or skill level with the department. Staffing remains at 12 department members but recent losses of qualified drivers due to retirement, relocation, etc. have created situations where the fire engine responding to a call on time may not be possible.

New Business

New Fire Truck Savings Fund

Claire Girard advised the \$20,631 truck fund, presently in a low interest account, be split into a group of \$5,000 and \$10,000 13 month certificates of deposit for a higher rate of return.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to pursue the CD savings option.

Tax Collecting Late Fees and Penalties

Jerianne reports three residents have contacted her disputing late fees and penalties:

Aaron DeBarros claims not to have received the first tax bill but did receive the first late notice and is requesting the \$25 late fee be waived.

Margaret Grivers has received a late notice but claims to have paid the bill on time via online banking.

Richard Barr paid his real estate fire tax but failed to pay his automobile fire tax, claiming not to have noticed that the two bills arrived in the same envelope.

Chief Nunes commented that occasionally a resident will visit the station during daytime hours to resolve a billing issue. It was reiterated that neither the chief nor tax collector have the authority to waive or personally resolve outstanding billing issues. Any issues must be brought to the attention of the board of wardens to be decided upon by a case by case basis.

Proposed State House Bills

Chief Nunes alerted the meeting members that two bills were being proposed by the state house which may prove difficult for QFD to conduct business in the future:

A minimum of 2% quorum for the annual fire district meeting. QFD annual meetings' attendance rarely exceed 16, despite notification in local newsprint. Passage of such a bill would prevent setting the annual budget.

Another proposed bill would limit the budget debt limit to 5%, preventing the financing of another fire apparatus.

New Budget Items

Chief Nunes proposed tax increases to cover the following expenses:

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League dues of \$500

A proposed \$900 increase in building and truck insurance.

The increase to cover a 3% increase in accident and sickness insurance and coverage to be increased to cover responding firefighters' vehicles while responding to calls, prompted by a deer being struck by a responding firefighter last year.

Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottle replacement.

\$700 each for replacement of 12-15 SCBA bottles ending their 15 year service life. Chief Nunes will research salvaging the valves from each tank in an effort to reduce cost but the \$700 per bottle price should be expected. Proposed purchase is 6 bottles with funds available in the 2014 budget, another 6 bottles following passage of the 2015 budget and another 3 bottles after the May 2016 annual meeting.

Tentative acceptance for each of Chief Nunes' proposed expenses was given and will be finalized when the annual budget is discussed at the next wardens meeting, scheduled for April 14, 2015 at 7:00pm

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:34pm. Motion passed.